

**ARIZONA STATE PARKS BOARD
ARIZONA STATE PARKS CONFERENCE ROOM
JULY 30, 2010
MINUTES**

Board Members Present

Reese Woodling, Chairman (via phone conference)
Tracey Westerhausen, Vice Chairman
Larry Landry (via phone conference)
Walter Armer (via phone conference)
Alan Everett

Board Members Absent

William Scalzo
Maria Baier

Staff Members Present

Renée Bahl, Executive Director
Jay Ream, Assistant Director, Parks
Jay Ziemann, Assistant Director, Partnerships and External Affairs
Kent Ennis, Assistant Director, Administration
Monica Enriquez, Executive Assistant

Attorney General's Office

Laurie Hachtel, Assistant Attorney General
Joy Hernbrode, Assistant Attorney General

A. CALL TO ORDER - ROLL CALL

Chairman Woodling called the meeting to order at 2:00 p.m. Roll Call indicated a quorum was present.

B. INTRODUCTIONS OF BOARD MEMBERS AND AGENCY STAFF

1. **Board Statement** - "As Board members we are gathered today to be the stewards and voice of Arizona State Parks and its Mission Statement to manage and conserve Arizona's natural, cultural, and recreational resources for the benefit of the people, both in our parks and through our partners."

- C. CALL TO THE PUBLIC** – Consideration and discussion of comments and complaints from the public. Those wishing to address the Board must register at the door and be recognized by the Chair. It is probable that each presentation will be limited to one person per organization. Action taken as a result of public comment will be limited to directing staff to study or reschedule the matter for further consideration at a later time.

Jerome Van Gasse, concerned citizen, spoke about keeping parks open. He said he worked for many years with past Board member Joni Bosh, Sandy Bahr and several others. He said anything that could be done to keep parks open because once they are closed the chances to re-open them are very slim. He also noted that anything that could be done to rally the public or joint ventures to keep the parks open should be done. The State needs vision.

Chairman Woodling said the Board is looking at various alternatives to keep as many parks open as possible.

D. BOARD ACTION ITEMS

- 1. Consider Endorsing Agreements with Yavapai County and Jerome Historical Society for the operation of Jerome State Historic Park** – Staff recommends that the Arizona State Parks Board endorse the major components of the agreement with Yavapai County to support the operation of Jerome State Historic Park. Staff further recommends that the Board endorse the negotiations and implementation of an agreement with the Jerome Historical Society to operate the Jerome gift shop to extend the hours and/or days of Park operation. With the execution of the agreement with Yavapai County, staff recommends the Board authorize the Executive Director to reopen Jerome State Historic Park to the public.

Ms. Bahl said both of the endorsements relate to Jerome State Historic Park. This park has been closed to the public since February 2009 for stabilization and construction. She said the first recommendation is that the Parks Board endorse an agreement with Yavapai County to accept \$30,000. This funding would reopen Jerome Historic State Park for five days per week for one year. The Park would be operated by Arizona State Parks staff and Arizona State Parks would retain the entrance fee. Yavapai County Board of Supervisors will consider this \$30,000 contribution on August 2, 2010. This endorsement would reopen the Park. Secondly, staff is recommending the Board endorse staff negotiating and implementing an agreement with Jerome Historical Society to operate the gift shop and the front desk at the park. If these negotiations are successful, it could add hours or days of operation because Arizona State Parks would then not need to put staff there. The goal would be to try to have the park open seven days per week. These negotiations are in the preliminary stages, however, with Yavapai County's Board of Supervisors approval, the Park could be reopened for five days per week. If the Board decides to approve this recommendation, then staff would work with the partners to determine an opening date which would likely be late September or sometime in October.

Chairman Woodling asked for questions from the Board. Mr. Armer commented that he saw no problem with it and thought it wonderful. Chairman Woodling said in the components of the agreement, it states the Jerome Historical Society would collect park entrance fees. He asked Ms. Bahl to further explain that. Ms. Bahl said that Jerome State Historic Park is set up in the way that when visitors enter the building, the gift shop is there at the entry and this also where visitors would pay the entrance fee. That means that one person would be able to operate both the gift shop and collect the fees for the park. If the negotiations with the Historical Society are successful, the Historical Society would have one of their paid professional staff operating the gift shop, keeping the proceeds from the gift shop for the Historical Society, but simultaneously, collecting the entrance fees for Arizona State Parks on a daily basis. Chairman Woodling asked if that would then be a paid professional and not a volunteer. Ms. Bahl answered that would be a negotiating point with the Historical Society.

Alan Everett: I move that the Arizona State Parks Board endorse the major components of the agreement with Yavapai County to support the operation of Jerome State Historic Park. I further endorse the Executive Director to negotiate and implement an agreement with the Jerome Historical Society to operate the Jerome gift shop to extend the hours and/or days of Park operation. With the execution of the agreement with Yavapai County, I move the Arizona State Parks Board authorize the Executive Director to

reopen Jerome State Historic Park to the public. Ms. Westerhausen seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously with Mr. Scalzo and Ms. Baier absent.

E. TIME AND PLACE OF NEXT MEETING AND CALL FOR FUTURE AGENDA ITEMS

1. Staff recommends that the next Arizona State Parks Board Meeting be on Wednesday, September 15, 2010.

Chairman Woodling asked if the September 15th meeting would be in the Phoenix area. Ms. Bahl answered affirmatively but said a specific location has not been secured. Chairman Woodling said that meeting is usually about Grants. Ms. Bahl answered affirmatively. Mr. Armer said he may not be able to make the September meeting but may be able to call in if needed for a quorum.

2. Board members may wish to discuss issues of interest to Arizona State Parks and request staff to place specific items on future Board meeting agendas.

F. ADJOURNMENT

Ms. Westerhausen motioned to adjourn. Mr. Everett seconded the motion. The meeting adjourned at 2:10 p.m.

Pursuant to Title II of the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA), Arizona State Parks does not discriminate on the basis of a disability regarding admission to public meetings. Persons with a disability may request a reasonable accommodation, such as a sign language interpreter, by contacting the acting ADA Coordinator, Nicole Armstrong-Best, (602) 542-7152; or TTY (602) 542-4174. Requests should be made as early as possible to allow time to arrange the accommodation.

APPROVED:

Reese Woodling

Reese Woodling, Chairman

Renée E. Bahl

Renée E. Bahl, Executive Director